

Attorney Docket: 381AS/50959

JAN 2 3 2004

GROUP 3600

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

FUMIHIKO OKAI ET AL.

Serial No.:

NOT YET ASSIGNED

Filed:

FEBRUARY 27, 2002

Title:

VEHICLE CONTROL APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.56

February 27, 2002

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

STATEMENT OF RELEVANCE

The relevance of these references to the subject matter of the present invention is given in the <u>Background and Summary of the Invention</u> in the specification of the present invention.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (1) no later than three months from the application's filing date or (2) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later), and therefore no statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary R. Ædwards

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U.S. Department of Commerce Patent & Trademark Office Attorney Docket No. 381AS/50959

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant: Fumihiko OKAI et al

Filing Date February 27, 2002 Group

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not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication.